

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
February 2, 2015**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, February 2, 2015. The regular meeting of the Board of Health convened at 7:00 p.m. at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 29602 in the Boardroom.

Members present: Mr. William Mixon, Chair
Mr. John Dollar, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner
Dr. Sharon Monday
Dr. Matthew Davis
Mr. Brian Potocki
Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr.
Ms. Brenda Watson

Members absent: Ms. Naomi East

Staff present: Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director
Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor
Mr. Scott Carpenter, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager
Ms. Alice Layne, Home Health Manager
Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Nutrition Supervisor
Ms. Martha J. Knox, Administrative Assistant III
Ms. Mary Elaine Knight, Public Health School Nurse
Ms. Britney DeMuth, WIC Nutritionist
Ms. Cheryl Gray, Home Health Nurse
Ms. Sherwin Johnson, Home Health Nurse

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. William Mixon, Chair called the meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00p.m.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER

Mr. William Mixon, Chair, stated that Dr. William Geideman has resigned from the Board of Health. Dr. Geideman was unable to attend this meeting; however, the Board wishes to recognize him for his service to Catawba County, the Board of Health, Catawba County Public Health and the citizens of Catawba County. Dr. Geideman will receive a plaque that states he served on the Board from July, 2008 to December, 2014. He also served as Vice-Chair on the Board of Health from July, 2013 to June, 2014. Mr. Mixon stated that Board and Public Health appreciate his dedication and service.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. William Mixon, Chair, asked if there were any changes to the agenda, hearing none, he requested a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dr. Sharon Monday seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 1, 2014 MINUTES AND ATTACHMENT

Mr. William Mixon, Chair, stated that the Minutes for December 1, 2014, and the Minutes Attachment were received in the Board packet. He asked if there were any changes to be made to those minutes as presented. Hearing none Ms. Brenda Watson made a motion to accept the Minutes and Minutes Attachment for December 1, 2014, as presented. Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr., seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mixon asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III, stated that no one had presented to speak.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. William Mixon, Chair asked Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant, to introduce any new employees to the Board.

Ms. Knox stated there were several new employees to introduce to the Board.

- Ms. Cheryl Gray, Home Health Nurse, joined Catawba County Home Health on October 28, 2014. Ms. Gray worked previously for Lincoln County Home Health.
- Ms. Mary Knight, Public Health School Nurse, joined Catawba County Public Health on December 22, 2014. Previously, Ms. Knight worked for Lincoln County Health Department. She is currently providing school health services to students at Ball's Creek and Sherrill's Ford Elementary Schools.
- Ms. Brittney DeMuth, WIC Nutritionist, joined Catawba County Public Health first as an hourly Nutritionist and then on October 13, 2014 she began as a fulltime Nutritionist in our WIC Department.
- Ms. Sherwin Johnson, Home Health Nurse, joined Catawba County Home Health on November 3, 2014. Ms. Johnson previously worked for CMC – Health at Home Blue Ridge providing in-home care.

Ms. Knox stated that Catawba County Public Health is pleased to add these employees to our staff. Mr. Mixon welcomed the new employees on behalf of the Board of Health.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Mr. William Mixon, Chair asked Mr. Dan Hunsucker for his report. Mr. Hunsucker stated that the Board of Commissioners met on this date prior to the regular meeting of the Board, with Catawba County's representatives to the General Assembly, which includes: Representative Jay Adams, Representative Mitchell S. Setzer, and State Senator, Andy Wells. The Board of Commissioners reviewed the legislative agenda and goals for Catawba County.

Among the goals discussed was not passing Medicaid funding back to the counties. The need for new sources of revenue to be identified for local governments besides property taxes, which may be looking at restructuring existing revenue resources.

Mr. Hunsucker stated that at the last meeting held in January, the Board of Commissioners recognized Mr. Rayvon Caldwell from the Ball's Creek area. Mr. Caldwell served Catawba County on the Board of Planning for 44 years, and was chair of that board for several of those years. This completed Mr. Hunsucker's report to Board of Health.

MID-YEAR OUTCOME SUMMARY

Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director, directed the Board's attention to Attachment I in their board packets.

Ms. Isenhour stated that there are four outcomes listed that are not on target to achieve before the end of the year. The four outcomes are, one outcome in Environmental Health, two outcomes in Home Health, and one in the Prenatal area.

She stated that the # 2 outcome in Home Health has been updated due to additional data being available. When the outcome was established, Alice Layne, Manager of the Home Health area had to estimate what the 1st quarter statistics would be. Home Health had 703 referrals during the first two quarters, although that is more than the 610 referrals that were estimated, the numbers still do not indicate that this outcome is on target to achieve the 1,700 referrals set as the goal for the fiscal year.

In addition, Ms. Isenhour stated that there is a revision to the # 2 Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Outcome.

The mid-year revised outcome now reads:

"2. Catawba County Public Health will demonstrate readiness to conduct Medical Countermeasures operations in the event of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment during a public health emergency by conducting a self assessment, gaps analysis, and participating in an assessment conducted by NC Public Health Preparedness and Response to establish a baseline using the Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review Tool (MCMOORR)."

The Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review Tool (MCMOORR) is a new tool that will evaluate local public health agencies on their level of "established" readiness. Ms. Isenhour stated there are four stages to the MCMOORR Readiness, which are: early, intermediate, established, and advanced. The State wants the local health departments to be at the "established" level. This tool requires more frequent exercises and corrective action plans. The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) score will no longer be assessed and reported. Chantae Lail, Preparedness Coordinator will do a presentation at a later Board meeting, which will give more detail. Therefore, Ms. Isenhour was asking for approval of the change to outcome that reflects the different criteria for scoring the SNS plan.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the revision to the Bioterrorism Preparedness & Response Outcome as presented. Dr. Sharon Monday seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HOME HEALTH GOVERNING BODY AND ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. William Mixon asked for a motion to leave regular session of the Catawba County Board of Health and reconvene as the Home Health Governing Body and Advisory Board. Dr. Sharon Monday so moved and Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to return to the regular session of the Catawba County Board of Health. Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FLU UPDATE

Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director, gave a brief update to the Board on the current status of flu activity. She stated that Flu has been widespread in North Carolina and the Southeast. Catawba County has had 4 deaths related to the flu and the all were in the over 65 years of age group. Ms. Isenhour added that 81% of the recorded cases in North Carolina have occurred in people over the age of 65. Ms. Isenhour stated that Flu has been hard on the older population this year. North Carolina has recorded 137 deaths as of the week ending January 24th and the peak of the flu epidemic was December 27, 2014.

The Flu has been identified through testing as the unknown strain of Subtype A. CPH is still giving Flu vaccine and still has a supply of the State vaccine for children that qualified for the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program {VFC is for under-insured and uninsured children and pregnant women}, and purchased vaccine is also available.

Chairman Mixon stated he thought that the Flu was hitting the middle-aged group, however, Ms. Isenhour stated the statistics shows that most of the positive tests are in the over 65 age group. Mr. Mixon asked if CPH is financially responsible for leftover vaccine. Ms. Isenhour stated that some of the vaccine can be returned to the manufacturers for refund.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that many providers are giving vaccine this year and that reduces the amount of vaccine that the local health department dispenses. It becomes hard to estimate the amount to purchase due to the uncertainty of the severity of the Flu in any given season. Ms. Isenhour stated that staff ordered more seasonal and less high dose vaccine this year. The staff monitored the Flu season last year and tried to make their estimates based on the need, however, this year is much different than last year. She stated that it may be that the evolving role of Public Health will be to focus on the more vulnerable segment of the population that are eligible for the VFC vaccine that is provided free of charge by the State. The general population has access for the flu vaccine through local healthcare providers including pharmacies.

Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., asked if some people have chosen not to get the vaccine because it was not as effective this year. Ms. Isenhour stated that is one possible explanation. The vaccine does give people partial protection; however, people may feel it is not as beneficial to warrant getting the shot.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker asked if a provider or pharmacy called looking for vaccine, could they purchase from CPH. Mr. Urland stated that the health department has done that in the past, however, that would only apply to our purchased vaccine.

Ms. Isenhour stated that Amy McCauley, PIO has advertised the availability and reminders to get the Flu vaccine.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that Public Health is evolving to a role less of providing and more of assuring that immunizations services are available in the community. Public Health continues to promote, education the community as of the need to get the protection of vaccines against preventable disease.

Mr. Hunsucker asked regarding the Measles and what Public Health can do regarding protecting the public against an epidemic. Ms. Isenhour stated she has a report to give on Measles to address those concerns. She has a brief update on EBOLA and then will move to the subject of Measles.

EBOLA Update - Ms. Isenhour stated to date, 22,369 total cases of EBOLA have been identified and almost 9,000 deaths 40% death rate at this time. It is still active in Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. The good news is that since June, 2014, fewer than 100 new confirmed cases per week, however, it is still an active ongoing outbreak. The conference calls with the NC Division of Public Health are no longer weekly, however they are still being scheduled to keep communities ready.

Mr. John Dollar asked if the trial EBOLA vaccine has been suspended. Ms. Isenhour stated she was not sure about the status of the vaccine.

Measles Outbreak - Ms. Isenhour stated that 102 cases of Measles have been reported in 14 States, which was most likely transmitted from an infected individual from another country to those that are unvaccinated. Children – some too young to be vaccinated and others that did not have the vaccines required since birth.

Ms. Isenhour stated that Mr. Hunsucker's question - "What can we do to get the community to understand the need to get vaccinations?" is the question that CCPH is focusing on. She stated that in December she reported to the Board on the Pertussis vaccine and the need to get the number of children in compliance up to date. Public Health focuses on alerting physicians and schools that this issue affects everyone and it is necessary to immunize on time to achieve the "herd" community.

School Health nurses have focused on the 7th grade to ensure that the booster dose for Pertussis is given, however, Kindergarten and daycare is also the time to examine immunization records for immunization compliance.

Therefore, although North Carolina does not have an outbreak of Measles at this time, it could happen if the immunization for this preventable disease is not current on children. The "herd" immunity is crucial to ensuring that children are protected.

CCPH is focusing on 2 year old children at this time, which is 79% at this time in Catawba County and statewide the rate is at 69%. Goal is 82% for the State and the 2020 objective is 90% for 2 year old immunization rate.

Dr. Sharon Monday asked if looking at the Catawba County population of children that are old enough to be immunized do we know the primary reason that they choose not to immunize. Is it because of religious reasons? Ms. Isenhour stated that based on the population CCPH serves; the reason for not immunizing is usually religious or medical contraindications. The physician is responsible to document the medical reasons. The data on immunizations medical practices is mostly unavailable; therefore, CCPH is focusing on educating physicians about the issue.

There are immunization changes that go into effect July 1, 2015, and additional funds were made available by the NC Division of Public Health to develop a plan and educate the public about immunizations.

Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager, shared the posters and flyers that have been prepared for this campaign. The title is "They grow so fast, keeping up with the changes can tough." She stated the general message is the kids keep changing, but they can be protected with vaccine they needs. The message encourages them to have the conversation with their healthcare provider and make sure their children's shots are given on time and on schedule.

Although technically, this campaign is to promote the changes in July, it is timely because of the news item about the Measles outbreak. The posters and flyers will be distributed in the community in the next couple of months and there will be TV spots and other media events to get the message out.

Dr. Matthew Davis stated that there is not a day that goes by on Facebook that someone has posted a study that shows the dangers of vaccine – and links take people to false websites with mis-information about vaccine safety. However, there are not enough factual, truthful reports on social media giving the important message about vaccine safety.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that Public Health is always promoting vaccinations and that will continue. Public Health works with childcare centers distributing letters to parents and guardians promoting the message about prevention with vaccinations. The Smart Start grant for the Early Childhood Support team nurses goes to the childcare centers and do record reviews to ensure that immunizations are up-to-date. School Health nurses also monitor records to focus on children that are not up-to-date by the 30th day of school. It has improved the rates, but there are still other areas that CCPH continue to work on.

Mr. Urland and Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Charge Nurse with School Health are speaking to all three school systems to inform them about the importance of vaccinations and having the children vaccinated within the 30 days of the beginning of school. The discussion with the Superintendents about the changes to the immunization law on July 1, 2015 will also include the issue with Measles and how we can work to prevent that happening here in Catawba County. North Carolina mandates that children be current on their immunizations by the 30th day of the school year.

Mr. Urland stated that the country needs to have this conversation because many people today did not live during the time of the epidemics such as polio or measles. Pertussis also is dangerous; Catawba County had a death from Pertussis a few years ago. The infant was too young to be vaccinated; however, if greater herd immunity existed for that disease, it may have prevented that death from occurring. It is crucial to protect the most vulnerable in our community those too young for vaccinations or too sick to receive vaccinations.

The Board discussed the need for consequences for not immunizing against these preventable diseases. Mr. Urland stated that it is very important to get physicians fully engaged in the importance of promoting immunizations. He stated that he's read recent newspaper articles show that some parents are requiring proof that children have had their vaccinations before they can attend functions, such as birthday parties at their homes. Ms. Isenhour stated that travelers should be informed that outside the United States there are higher rates of diseases such as Measles and Pertussis.

Mr. Urland stated that study that opponents site for not getting vaccinations was published in 1998 in a British medical journal. That article was proven to be fraudulent and was only a study of 12 people. However, vaccine opponents use media access to continue to provide inaccurate information. Public Health must continue to educate the public about the safety and importance of immunizations.

Health Director's Report

Mr. Urland stated he had just a few items:

Budget – The budget process for 2015-16 has changed. In the past the February meeting would be when the Finance Subcommittee would present the budget to the Board for approval. However, this year the process is different. This is due to the budgets for the State, Federal and county budget. This year is a revaluation year

for Catawba County and it is uncertain how much property tax will be realized for the 2015-16 budget. Staff will keep the Board updated as information regarding the budget becomes available.

General Assembly – The legislature is back in session in Raleigh. As Mr. Hunsucker stated, the Board of Commissioners have reviewed their legislative goals, which include goals submitted by Public Health. The various associations including the NC Association of Local Health Directors, NC Association of County Commissioners are also submitting their legislative goals. This is the long session and it sometimes the State process goes beyond June.

Community Health Assessment - This process occurs every four years and the 2016 CHA kickoff was held last week. Mr. John Dollar representing business and the Board of Health attended this leadership meeting along with other community leaders. This document will be due in March of 2016. During interim years the State of the County Health report is provided and this will be presented to the Board of Health at the April meeting.

Department Reports to Board of Commissioners - Doug stated that Board of Commissioners are receiving updates from Department Heads regarding their departments. Doug will be on the February 16, 2015 agenda to give the State of Public Health to the Board of Commissioners.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Mixon asked if there was any further business for the Board. Hearing none he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker moved that the regular session of the Board of Health be adjourned. Dr. Sharon Monday seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas W. Urland', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas W. Urland
Health Director

DWU: mjk